



# BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

FALL & WINTER, 2022 NEWSLETTER

## ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING & EXERCISES

Doug Humble

Beaver County Emergency Services continues to partner with the County District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and ESU Team to present Active Shooter Training and Exercises as well as Stop the Bleed Training for school districts and local law enforcement agencies. Included below and on the following page are scenes from recent training and exercise events. Not pictured are presentations and trainings held at Midland Innovative Technology Charter School on August 23 and Western Beaver School District on August 25.



School bus safety symposium held 08/10/22 at Highland Middle School, Blackhawk school District featuring Emergency Services' Mobile Command Post



Exercises at Central Valley Center Grange Primary School on 08/23/22 for Center and Monaca Police and school staff

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## TRAINING & EXERCISES, CONT.



RAIDER (Rapid Deployment) Training on 08/18/22  
For Law Enforcement in Active Shooter Incidents  
Presented by local LE instructors at Rochester High School



Riverside Active Shooter and Stop the Bleed  
Training, 10/10/22



Police briefing at Ambridge High School Active  
Shooter review & exercise on 10/28/22



Ellwood City High School Active Shooter Training  
and Exercise day, 09/02/22



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Eric Brewer, Emergency Services Director



As the year ends, we are already preparing for 2023. Each year brings a turnover in public safety leadership throughout the county, and this year seems to be one with many changes. We welcome change and look forward to working with the new leaders. Myself or one of the administrative staff regularly attends the Police Chiefs, Firefighters Association and the EMS meetings to update those groups on our operations. This is a good time to look at updating your business listings and contact numbers for our records.

**Radio Project** - This year, the Beaver County Commissioners supplied public safety agencies in Beaver County with over \$7 million in funds that went towards radios or general operating costs. We have been working with Motorola engineering on upgrading the county's radio infrastructure. The last time this was done was 2009-2010. The preliminary plan is to add 2-4 new antennae sites as well as to update radio bases and other hardware and software within the next year. Be sure to read Kevin Whipple's update later in this newsletter for more information. Remember, if you plan on purchasing radios, make sure they are compatible. We are also updating radio programming. The radio vendors we work with are familiar with the programming.

**9-1-1 Staffing Notes** - Since 2018, our 9-1-1 staffing, as well as most county's throughout the Commonwealth, has been low. This is in line with the national trend of workforce decline. I am happy to say for the first time in three years we only have 2 open full-time positions. I attribute this to the 9-1-1 administration as well as the employees themselves. We do plan on starting the hiring process in the next few weeks. It takes approximately six months from the time a person is hired to go through the training to actually working on their own. Nationally there is a 35-40% rate of completion for 9-1-1 personnel. Everyone thinks they can do the job until they start the process! If this is something you're interested in, you can apply on Beaver County's website or pick up an application Monday - Friday at the Emergency Services administrative office. Our 9-1-1 Administration is comprised of Brian Murray, Deputy Director 9-1-1; Tina Martsof, Manager of 9-1-1 Quality Assurance and Justin Magnifico & Christopher Stone, 9-1-1 Operations Managers.

**Hazmat Update** - In 2023, Team 700 will be up for recertification. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency will be evaluating our processes and equipment to make sure they are up to standards, and the review will culminate in an evaluated exercise. In 2023, we will also continue our annual technician update training through the US EPA. This year, in addition to monthly team training, Shawn Cox recently completed his Hazardous Materials Technician/Pro-Board Certification at Anniston, Alabama, and Eric Brewer and James Campese completed the Hazardous Materials Incident Commander Pro-Board Certification with the Allegheny County and City of Pittsburgh Teams. Be sure to read Jeff McKay's year end review of Hazmat Team 700's training and events later in this newsletter. Overseeing our Hazmat and Radiological programs is Kevin Whipple, Deputy Director of Emergency Management.

**Congratulations** to Madyson Knox-Bennett. She recently graduated from Slippery Rock University with a B.S. in Homeland Security and B.S. in Corporate Security. She currently is on our staff as an EMS-Specialist.

## LANDING ZONE REVIEW

Justin Magnifico



The 911 Center is currently working with Air Medical Services to update Landing Zones for all municipalities. This will include renaming each landing zone in CAD to remove any confusion between 911 and the air medical service. Currently in our CAD, landing zones are named by the first two letters of the municipality. Stat Medevac recommended using fire department station numbers to identify landing zones going forward. For example, Aliquippa AL01 will now be named 91-1.

All fire chiefs were sent an email with current landing zones to review for any changes, additions or deletions. If your department has not yet made any updates, please contact Justin Magnifico at [jmagnifico@beavercountypa.gov](mailto:jmagnifico@beavercountypa.gov) or 724-775-0880.

## BEAVER COUNTY RADIO PROJECT UPDATE

Kevin Whipple

The new radios have arrived and are currently being inventoried for each agency. Emergency Services is working with Bearcom to finalize the new programming templates. Once that is completed, Bearcom will begin to program each radio. Bearcom will be reaching out to agencies once the radios are ready for pickup. At that time, if your agency needs to have additional channels programmed (for example, local municipal channels, etc...), you will need to let Bearcom know those specific programming requests.



The mobile and base radios will be held at the Bearcom warehouse and delivered when ready to install. You will not be able to pick up the radios until they are paid for, and the Beaver County Commissioners' office will let us know when each agency's order is paid. Please feel free to contact our office at 724-775-1700 with any questions you may have.

## Municipal Coordinator Trainings, 2022 Review

Jeff McKay

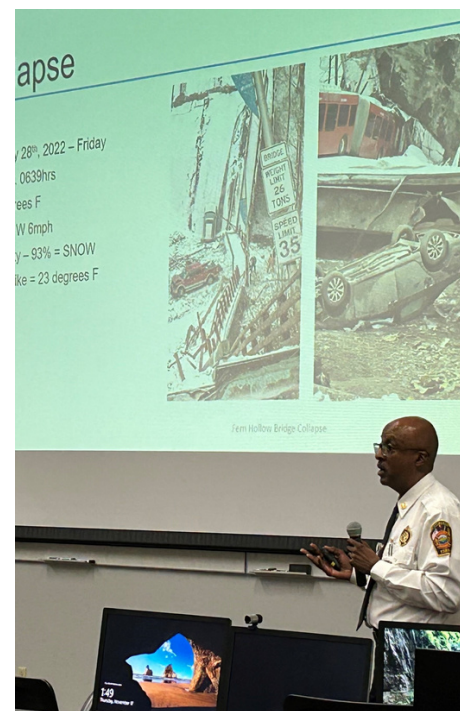
As we come to the end of 2022 and look toward 2023, Beaver County's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators continue to show dedication to training and preparing for emergencies in their communities. Over the past year's training events, we've had great attendance from municipal emergency management coordinators, deputies and staff members and look forward to continuing that trend in 2023. Beaver County EMA schedules at least 4 training dates per year, with afternoon and evening sessions offered to give everyone an opportunity to get some good information on how to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. There are discussions on updates and incidents that have happened in our County, other Counties, and States that we can learn from. The major focus of the trainings this past year were our guest speakers. In February, we talked about Basic Debris Management after the Disaster.



A Severe Weather Tabletop Exercise was offered in April in which municipalities and schools practiced their response to a major weather event in their communities. In May, we trained on a radiological response to an event at the Beaver Valley Power Station prior to the federally evaluated exercise. June of this year brought the Beaver Valley Power Station's biennial Evaluated Exercise during which municipalities and the County activated their Emergency Operation Centers for the drill.

In September, Phil Barker, PEMA Western Area Director, presented a Disaster Recovery Program along with information on FEMA's Community Lifeline Program. And to closeout training in 2022, in November, former Aliquippa Fire Chief and now the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire Chief Darryl Jones provided a Case Study on the Fern Hollow Bridge Collapse.

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## Municipal Coordinator Trainings, Cont.

Along with all of this training, KEMA, the Keystone Emergency Management Association, provided a 4-day EMA conference in October at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona.

Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators also complete online training and attend in person classes to receive their Basic, Advanced and Professional Certifications through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Certification program. This program is changing with the certification moving toward an Associate and Professional Certification.



Recently, Matt Straub, Coordinator for Big Beaver and New Galilee Boroughs, received his Advanced Local Certification. He is pictured with Deputy Director Kevin Whipple.

Deputies, and local EMA staff members are also able to receive these certifications which will make their agency much stronger during an incident and prepare them for advancement, in the event that someone resigns.

These Emergency Management Agency members put a lot of time into what they love to do to help people in need when a major incident strikes. Oh, did I say that they are also firefighters, emergency medical personnel, public works personnel, municipal managers, and police officers? We are grateful to these volunteers and always welcome those who are interested in serving their community. Please contact your local EMA Coordinator if you would be interested in serving your Municipal Emergency Management Agency.



## Hazmat Team 700 Year End Review

Jeff McKay

Team 700 has spent a lot of time training this pass year. Below are the monthly highlights of our 2022 accomplishments.

- January: administration reviews
- February: 16 hour EPA Hazmat Technician Refresher class by Christine Wagner
- March: Review of Tier II facility site documentation and response procedures
- April: MSA Altair 5X air monitoring with blue tooth connection, SCBA and CavCom Communications
- May: Radiological Response and Distribution of Rad equipment in the event of an incident at the Beaver Valley Power Station
- June: Radiological Distribution Drill for the Beaver Valley Power Station and also in June we review equipment locations and operations
- July: Columbia gas provided a tabletop drill simulating a small aircraft crash at one of the facilities
- August: Team members attended the PA Association of Hazardous Materials Technicians conference at Seven Springs. This is a great conference to learn and network with our friend that are members of the PA Region 13 South Western Task Force.
- September: Drill scenario involving an unknown chemical leaking from a drum with an added twist of a Hazmat entry team member experiencing a medical emergency requiring extrication from the hot zone as part of the scenario
- October: Bad Day Consulting and Training provided a Research Specialist Class. Very good program!
- November: 2 evenings, 8 hours, Compressed Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transport (CMERRT). MERRTs basic approach to transportation emergency planning and preparedness activities under a single program with the goal to ensure local emergency responders are prepared to respond promptly, efficiently, and effectively to possible accidents involving shipments of radioactive material.
- December: Director Matt Brown and Deputy Director Steve Imbarlina from Allegheny County Emergency Service provided a case study of the Harmar Township train derailment

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## Hazmat Year End Review, Cont.

As we continue into the next year, we plan to prepare, train, and respond when requested whether in Beaver County or around the surrounding area. As Director Brewer noted earlier in this newsletter, it is time again for Beaver County Emergency Services to begin the process of applying for recertification from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the County's Hazardous Material Response Team 700.

Hazardous Material Response Team certifications are valid for a period of 4 years, and Beaver County's Team 700 certification expires July 31, 2023. Emergency Services staff members will be conducting an initial planning meeting with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) January 26, 2023 and will discuss the upcoming new process of some changes to the recertification. Team 700's Standard Operating Guidelines, exercise parameters, equipment inventory requirements, medical and training requirements and necessary documentation will be reviewed. The recertification process will end with a full scale exercise evaluated by a team from PEMA's Hazardous Materials Division. Team 700 keeps itself in a constant state of readiness and we are confident that the team will meet all of the requirements, as it has since 1989.

### Everyone Stay Safe!







*Wishing you a  
Merry  
Christmas  
and a safe and  
happy  
New Year!*

*From Eric Brewer  
and the staff of  
Beaver County  
Emergency Services*



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

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The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter  
is created and published by the Beaver County  
Emergency Services center.

Beaver County Emergency Services is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. Emergency Services manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.

The Emergency Services center is also the home of the county's Hazardous Materials Response Team, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services. Emergency Services works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to Beaver County.

**Want to contribute?**

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